

April

Invasive of the Month



Wisteria (*Wisteria Sinensis*, *Wisteria Floribunda*)

Here in North Carolina there are two main types of invasive wisteria, Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) and Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*). While there is a native wisteria that grows here (*Wisteria frutescens*) it is frequently outcompeted by the invasive plant. Wisterias are deciduous twining vines that wrap their main stems tightly around a support in order to climb, often leading to the damage of native trees.

How to Identify:

Chinese and Japanese wisteria can be difficult to distinguish from one another, and from American wisteria, when they are not in bloom or do not have seed pods. The main difference between the native and invasive wisterias is that the flowers on the native variety bloom after the plant has created leaves, whereas on the invasive wisterias the flowers appear before the leaves. Additionally, the invasive wisterias have fuzzy seed pods while the native ones have a smooth seed pod. The invasive wisterias have purple flowers that droop down anywhere between 6-20 inches long. The leaflets are arranged alternately along the stem, there can be 7-19 leaflets on the leaf.

Fun Fact:

Chinese wisteria climbs counter-clockwise while Japanese wisteria climbs clockwise!

Invasive Species Program

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